

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 25, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 114

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfeld, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, De Leon, Emmerson, Eng, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Gaines, Galgiani, Gilmore, Hagman, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lieu, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Ruskin, Salas, Silva, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Villines, and Yamada)

February 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 114, as amended, Bradford. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2010, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D.
- 2 Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, under which 120,000

1 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were
2 incarcerated in internment camps during World War II; and

3 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 deferred the American dream
4 for 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry
5 by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes, businesses,
6 careers, professional advancements, and disruption to family life;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Despite their families being incarcerated behind
9 barbed wire in the United States, approximately 33,000 veterans
10 of Japanese ancestry fought bravely for our country during World
11 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
12 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

13 WHEREAS, The 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat
14 Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion heroically suffered
15 nearly 10,000 casualties and are honored as being among World
16 War II's most decorated combat teams, having received seven
17 Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, 52 Distinguished Service
18 Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple
19 Hearts; and

20 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
21 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
22 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
23 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest
24 award—the Distinguished Service Cross—to receive the nation's
25 highest military honor—the Medal of Honor—bringing the total
26 number of recipients who so received the Medal of Honor to 21;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry served
29 with the Military Intelligence Service and have been credited for
30 shortening the war by two years by translating enemy battle plans,
31 defense maps, tactical orders, intercepted messages and diaries,
32 and interrogating enemy prisoners; and

33 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years subsequent to the United States
34 Supreme Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred
35 Korematsu, Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of
36 curfew and Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that the United
37 States War Department and Department of Justice officials had
38 altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty of Americans
39 and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld information
40 from the United States Supreme Court; and

1 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
2 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
3 innumerable hours to win a reversal in 1983 of the original
4 convictions of Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi by filing a
5 petition for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that
6 fundamental errors and injustice occurred; and

7 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan
8 signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding that
9 Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and,
10 hence, was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure
11 of political leadership; and

12 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on
13 behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
14 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
15 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for
16 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
17 interned; and

18 WHEREAS, February 19, 2010, marks 68 years since the signing
19 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
20 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
24 declares February 19, 2010, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
25 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
26 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
27 II; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
29 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
30 Instruction, the State Library, and the State Archives.